

Supervisor Romaine and Councilwoman Bonner Lend Support to “Think Differently” Initiative

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Farmingville, NY – On October 10, Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilwoman Jane Bonner met with Assemblyman Dean Murray and Marcus Molinaro, the County Executive of Dutchess County, at the Longwood Library to support the “Think Differently” initiative which looks to foster a more inclusive community for people on the Autism spectrum and those with special needs. The Town is expected to adopt a resolution to participate in “Think Differently” at the October 26 Town Board meeting. The goal of the initiative is to provide an inclusive environment for individuals of all abilities by supporting community events that expand family-friendly opportunities for people with special needs and their families. It also provides guidance to those with special needs on how to access public services available to them in the community, and encourages the community and businesses to make facilities and services more accessible.

“This was a fantastic presentation by County Executive Molinaro that brought to light some of the challenges facing individuals with disabilities and how we as government leaders can address them and help everyone grow and reach their potential,” Murray said. “I would like to thank Supervisor Romaine and Councilwoman Bonner for participating as well and I am proud that we have begun adopting and implementing some of these ideas on the local level.”

Supervisor Romaine said, “Our participation in ‘Think Differently’ sends an important message that the Town of Brookhaven is an all-inclusive community that welcomes and supports our special needs residents. I urge all municipalities and businesses to get behind this initiative and do whatever they can to improve the quality of life for people of all abilities.”

Councilwoman Bonner said, “I am proud to lend my support for any initiative that takes steps to provide a welcoming environment for residents with special needs. The Town of Brookhaven has always been at the forefront of these efforts and we will continue to provide them with the services and programs that everyone else enjoys.”

Pictured left to right are Assemblyman Murray; County Executive Molinaro, Supervisor Romaine and Councilwoman Bonner.

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